



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: MIDDLE CRAB CREEK RESTORATION, WETLAND ENHANCEMENT, FISHING ACCESS

Description of Proposal:

Project elements include:

1. Stabilizing the banks of middle Crab Creek and planting riparian vegetation.

Description: This phase of the project includes the stabilization of up to 15 miles of stream bank by utilizing a “naturalized” engineered design that incorporates native, riparian vegetation (Appendix A; Figures 4-10). This enhancement is expected to reduce bank erosion, provide transitional habitat for wildlife, cover for fish, and increase aesthetic value.

2. Constructing berms and swales to create/control wetlands for habitat.

Description: This phase of the project includes the construction of several berms and swales to control some of the approximate 900 acres of new wetlands that will be created from delivering feed water down middle Crab Creek to the Potholes Reservoir. Berms, swales, and water control structures will be used to create “habitat management” cells (Figure 2) to provide enhanced habitat opportunities for Northern leopard frogs, waterfowl, and recreation. This activity will be completed prior to the delivery of feed water down middle Crab Creek and mostly above the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM).

3. Constructing a fish barrier and developing an ADA public access site for to provide recreational fishing opportunities.

Description: This phase of the project includes the construction of a fish barrier to prevent carp coming out of Brook Lake from entering middle Crab Creek, as well as prevent stocked trout from moving out of middle Crab Creek into Brook Lake. This phase also includes enhancing an existing gravel road and providing American Disabilities Act (ADA) public access with ADA accessible amenities (e.g. vault toilet). *The Recreation Facility Design Guidelines* (Reclamation, 2002) will be used to assure all amenities and access sites are designed and constructed to comply with local, state, and federal ADA laws. In addition, a fish barrier will be designed to provide an ADA complaint fishing platform.

Background Information:

On May 14th, 2009, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in cooperation with the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) through the Office of Columbia River (OCR), submitted a Final Environmental Assessment (EA), State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist and a Mitigated Determination of No significance (MDNS) for the Potholes Reservoir

Supplemental Feed Route Project – Phase 2 – Middle Crab Creek (Feed Route). The purpose of the Feed Route project is to improve the reliability of the supply of feed water to Potholes Reservoir to deliver irrigation water to the southern portion of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP). Elements of the Feed Route project several environmental enhancement opportunities and a recreational trout fishery. WDFW is now pursuing, in partnership with OCR and Reclamation, final design and construction of the habitat enhancement projects identified in the 2009 MDNS.

The amount of feed water delivered from Billy Clapp Lake to the Potholes Reservoir via middle Crab Creek will range from 100 cfs annually during the non-irrigation season to up to 650 cfs during the irrigation season (in high precipitation years). However, 500 cfs will likely be the maximum amount of water running down middle Crab Creek during the irrigation season. This SEPA checklist and DNS addresses the details of construction and management of the habitat enhancements and the recreational trout fishery identified in the 2009 Final EA and include:

- ☐ Stabilizing stream banks and planting riparian corridors along middle Crab Creek to prevent erosion, avoid water quality impacts, and provide transitional habitat for wildlife;
- ☐ Constructing several berms, swales, and water control structures to provide enhanced habitat for wildlife with a focus on Northern leopard frogs and waterfowl;
- ☐ Improvements to the existing, upper wildlife structure including installing new gates, sealing abutments, and repairing the existing berms;
- ☐ Construction of a fish barrier above Adrian Road to block carp movement downstream, block trout movement upstream, and to provide recreational fishing opportunities and public access; and
- ☐ Replacing an existing water diversion structure within the project footprint to control water levels for waterfowl habitat and public access.

Proponent/Applicant:

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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: WDFW Gloyd Seeps Wildlife Area, Washington, Grant County; Sections 8, 9, 10, 15 and 23 Township 20 North, Range 28 East WM.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **May 14, 2013**.

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Bob Zeigler

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

DATE OF ISSUE: April 29, 2013

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

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